MARVEL LEGACY

OUT OF TIME PART 1

698

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CAPTAIN AMERICA®

SAMNEE 17
MW

COLD...

...SO COLD...

...VVVVVVRRR

THEY'RE HERE! EVERYBODY GATHER 'ROUND!

DID YOU GET IT? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT IT!

NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D PULL THIS OFF, BOSS!

LIKE TO'VE NOT, MAN. MARINA, CHALEEN, TYRUS...

...THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT.

AH, GEEZ...

SPISH

RAPIDS DIDN'T STAY SURPRISED LONG. SECOND THEY SAW WHAT WE WERE UP TO, THEY OPENED HELLFIRE.

YOU STOLE IT FROM RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE CASTLE, LIANG. WHAT'D YOU EXPECT? HOW MUCH DO YOUR STONES WEIGH, LADY?

TO HELL WITH "AMERICA."

HWUHH!

I'D DO IT AGAIN. I'LL GRAB WHATEVER CHEESY-ASS MONUMENTS TO "AMERICA" THOSE SACKS WANNA PUT UP, AND I WILL BUST 'EM TO RUBBLE.

HOLY-

LOOK OUT!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE--

WHAT IN THE--?

HE'S ALIVE? I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A NNGH!

OH, I'M ALIVE, ALL RIGHT! WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?

WHERE AM I? ANSWER ME!

PLEASE! WE DON'T WANT ANY MORE TROUBLE!

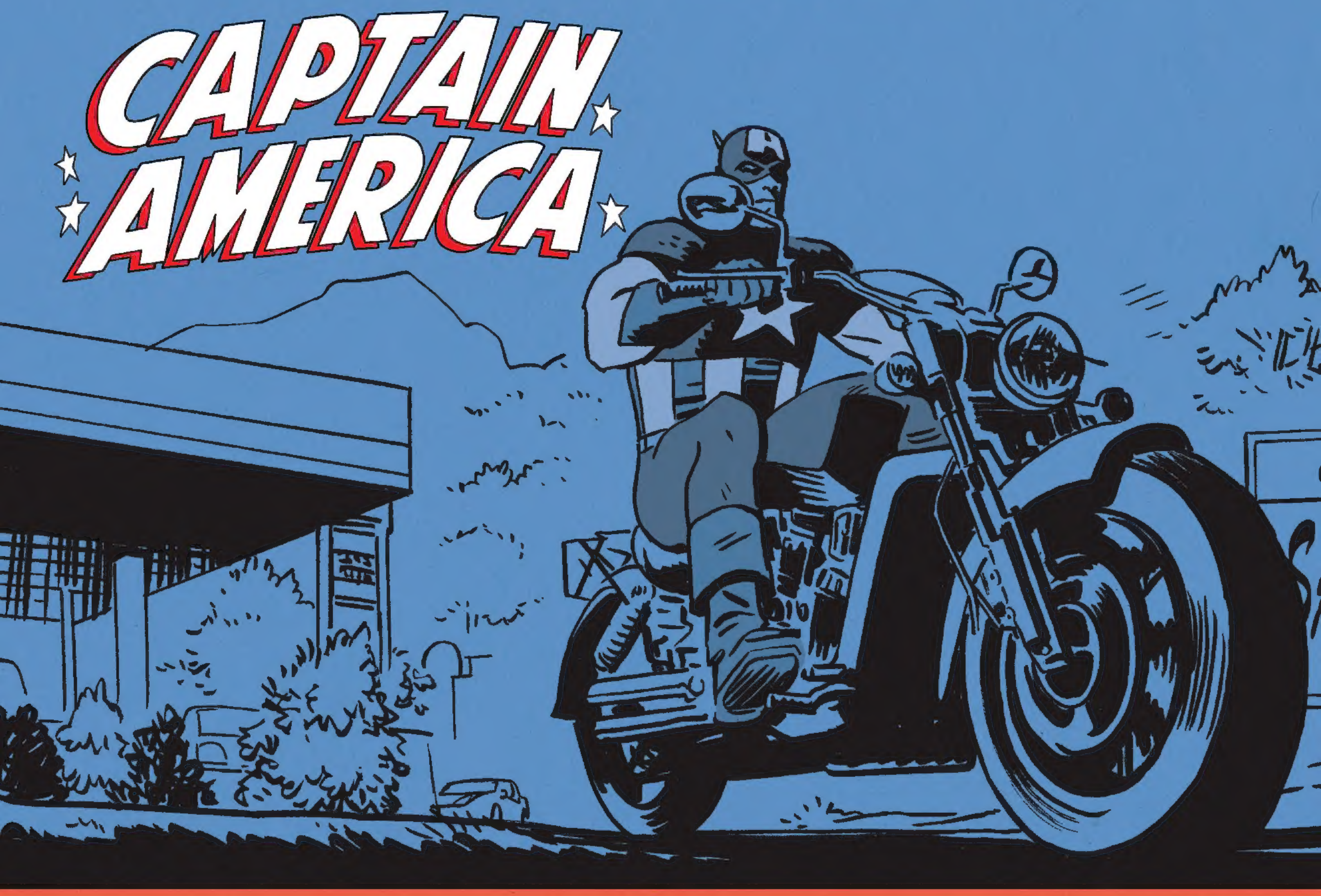
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE A *LEGEND!* MY GOD, YOU REALLY WERE *ALIVE* INSIDE ALL THAT *ICE?* HOW--

WAIT. YOU...YOU *HONESTLY* DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU *ARE*, DO YOU...?

WELL, IF YOU'RE...I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, BUT IF YOU REALLY *ARE CAPTAIN AMERICA*...THEN, I GUESS...

...WELCOME HOME.

1940! As the world teetered on the brink of global war, frail Steve Rogers entered a secret laboratory and was transformed into the American Super-Soldier! For five thrilling years, he fought the Axis powers--until a freak stroke of fate threw him into suspended animation. When he awoke, he was a man decades out of his time! Since that fateful day, Steve Rogers has sought his destiny in this brave new world!



Captain America recently defeated a villainous group called Rampart in Nebraska, and in retaliation, they hired Kraven the Hunter to capture Steve and deliver him to them alive. But while tangling with Kraven, Steve fell into the ocean, and Rampart arrived to put him on ice--literally! Now Captain America is, once again, a man out of time...

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WASHINGTON...? WHEN I LAST *SAW* IT, IT WAS...

WHAT *HAPPENED* HERE?

NOT JUST *HERE*, MAN. THIS ISN'T THE *UNITED STATES* ANYMORE. IT'S JUST ONE BIG STATE OF *MISERY.*

FROZEN IN *ICE?* I THINK YOU MIGHT REALLY *BE* HIM.

"THEY WERE USING YOU AS A *MONUMENT*...AN 'ETERNAL SYMBOL' TO SHOW THAT 'AMERICA CAN LIVE *FOREVER.*'

"THEIR 'AMERICA.'"

"THEIR"? WHOSE? SLOW DOWN!

RAPIDS COMING IN *HARD!* SAW TOO MANY OF US IN ONE PLACE! BOSS, WHAT DO WE DO?

EVERYONE OFF THE STREET! *SCRAMBLE!*

YOU! BOMB POP! FOLLOW *ME!* WE DON'T NEED 'EM SEEING *YOU* RIGHT NOW!

NNGH!

trip

WHAT? NEW *FEET?*

STILL... *STIFF*...FROM THE *ICE.*

THAT'S HOW...THIS *WORKS.*

I DON'T WANT TO BE STANDING NEXT TO A STAR-SPANGLED *TARGET.* PUT THIS ON. AND IF YOU'RE GONNA BLEND *IN...*

...TAKE THAT DAMN "A" OFF YOUR HEAD!

?

ATTENTION! YOU ARE GUILTY OF THE CRIME OF ASSEMBLY!

WHO ARE YOUR FELLOW SEDITIONISTS?

WHO ARE THEY *TALKING* TO? WE *CLEARED* THE--

OH, GOD.

"DINESH! HE DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT IN TIME! DAMN IT!"

STAY BACK. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.

HELL NO! THE SECOND ANYBODY STICKS A HEAD OUT THAT DOOR, THEY'LL FOLLOW 'EM RIGHT BACK AND WE ALL DIE!

LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT!

THIS IS NOT UP FOR DEBATE, BOMB POP! THESE ARE MY PEOPLE AND I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR LIVES!

IT'S DINESH OR IT'S ALL OF THESE OTHERS! IT'S THAT SIMPLE!

HE'S STILL WEAK! KEEP HIM BACK!

WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO TAKE HIM?

NOWHERE.

...

DON'T LOOK.

LET GO OF ME! LET ME-- MMPPPH--

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BR

THEY DIDN'T SEE US. THEY'RE MOVING OUT.

YOU CAN LET HIM GO.

DON'T **EVER** DO THAT TO ME **AGAIN.**

THWAM

STAND DOWN, SOLDIER...**IF** THAT'S WHO YOU **TRULY ARE.**

YOU WENT MISSING A **LONG TIME AGO.** JUST BECAUSE I'VE **HEARD** OF YOU DOESN'T MEAN I BOW AT YOUR **FEET.**

NOT WHILE I HAVE PEOPLE **COUNTING** ON ME. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF WORLD YOU WOKE **UP** IN.

THEN SHOW ME.

THEY SAY IT ALL STARTED WITH THE *FORTY-MINUTE WAR.*

"HUNDREDS OF WARHEADS COAST TO COAST. U.S. POPULATION REDUCED BY *NINE-TENTHS* BEFORE THE TOP OF THE *HOUR.* EARTH'S *DO-GOODERS* DIED CONTAINING THE BULK OF THE *RADIATION.*

"JUST ENOUGH OF IT SPREAD SO THAT WE COULD BE OFFERED SAFETY IF WE JUST BOUGHT THE EXPENSIVE *HAZMAT TRINKETS.*

"OR *TREATED WATER.* OR WHATEVER ELSE THE OPPORTUNISTS PROMISED US WOULD KEEP US HEALTHY."

WHO ATTACKED US? NORTH KOREA? CHINA?

AT THE RISK OF HAVING DRONES SHOOT THE TWO OF US DOWN FOR *SEDITION,* I WILL TELL YOU THIS--

"--NO RECORDS SURVIVE TO *PROVE* IT, BUT THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT IT WAS A *SELF-INFLICTED WOUND.*

"A VERY *CONTROLLED* 'ATTACK' COORDINATED BY AN ANTI-EGALITARIAN *CESSPOOL* CALLED *RAMPART* AND THEIR *LEADER, KING MAXIMILLIAN BABBINGTON."*

BECAUSE I WASN'T THERE TO STOP THEM.

PARDON?

I FOUGHT RAMPART IN *MY* TIME. JUST... GO ON.

THE END RESULT, WISDOM HAS IT, MADE IT *VERY EASY* FOR *"KING BABY"* TO SELL *FEAR* TO THE *MASSES.*

NUCLEAR-TERRORIZED LEMMINGS WILL TRADE *LIBERTY* FOR DRACONIAN *"ULTRA-PATRIOT ACTS"* IN A *SHOT.*

LEMMINGS WILL NOT *REVOLT* WHEN THEY HAVE TO PAY SO OUTRAGEOUSLY FOR "SAFETY MEASURES" THAT THE MIDDLE CLASS UP AND *VANISHES.*

AND HERE WE ARE.

WHERE WAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN ALL OF THIS?

YOU ARE A *RIOT,* BOMB POP.

MOST *ELECTED OFFICIALS* WERE CAUGHT IN THE *ATOMIC BLAST.* KING BABY USED THE VOID TO ESTABLISH AND ASCEND TO A *THRONE.* HE DOESN'T EVEN *PRETEND* TO REPRESENT US. ONLY THE *CHOSEN ELITE.*

THE RADIATION CAUSED ITS SHARE OF MUTATIONS. THEY SAY IT GAVE THE KING *MYSTERIOUS POWERS.*

SEE UP THERE? THAT'S KING BABY'S *PROMISED LAND.*

"WHERE THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF FOOD AND LUXURY. THAT'S WHERE THE *ELITE* LIVE. SOME EVEN WEAR *'A'S,* LIKE *YOU,* TO SHOW THEIR STATUS.

"'Y'S AND 'Z'S WERE BRANDED ONTO THE *REST* OF US SO WE'D KNOW OUR *PLACE."*

Z

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HELL, THEY EVEN TOOK THE NAME "AMERICA" FOR THEMSELVES. THEY DIDN'T LEAVE US EVEN THAT MUCH.

BUT YOU FIGHT BACK.

A GROUP OF US. I HOLD 'EM TOGETHER WITH DUCT TAPE AND A SENSE OF PURPOSE.

THE REST OF THE PEOPLE, THEY JUST TRY TO LIVE THEIR LIVES, GET THEIR KIDS TO SCHOOL, PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE...

HELLO, PASTOR.

MY CHILD.

...WENT TO CHURCH IN BIG NUMBERS BEFORE RAMPART MADE GOD THEIRS, TOO.

BLESS THIS MESS

MEDIA? NEWSPAPERS?

STATE RUN. USELESS.

THEY DON'T EVEN PRINT GARFIELD ANYMORE.

EXIT

DUE PROCESS?

NOSTALGIA.

LAWS AGAINST CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT?

SUPPORT THE STATE

PUNISHMENT, AS YOU SAW, IS PRETTY STANDARDIZED, SO NOT REALLY AN ISSUE.

AVENGERS? DEFENDERS? CHAMPIONS? *NONE* OF THEM MADE IT THROUGH?

NOPE. LOST IN THE *WAR.*

THE NAME OF MY *COUNTRY* STOLEN. THE REPUBLIC *DESTROYED.*

THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THE FUTURE.

EVERYTHING I...*WE*... FOUGHT FOR...

LIANG, I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY GENERATIONS IT TOOK TO TEAR DOWN THE AMERICAN DREAM...

...BUT LONG, *LONG* BEFORE ALL THIS, THERE USED TO BE A DOCUMENT CALLED THE BILL OF RIGHTS. I *LIVED* BY IT.

IT GUARANTEED FREEDOM OF RELIGION, LIANG. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. FREEDOM TO SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER AND FREEDOM FROM POWER'S *ABUSE.*

YOUR REBELS NEED TO *KNOW* ABOUT IT. I CAN WRITE IT DOWN FROM MEMORY IF YOU WANT.

CAP, WE'VE *HEARD* OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS. HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU WERE *FROZEN?*

THIS IS *2025.*

THE CASTLE.

"UNACCEPTABLE.

"THE KING *GAVE* HIS ORDERS *SEVEN YEARS AGO.* THERE WAS A REASON WE WANTED STEVE ROGERS *FROZEN* RATHER THAN SIMPLY *KILLED.*

"*DEAD,* HE WAS OF NO *USE* TO RAMPART.

"AS A *SYMBOL* OF LIBERTY'S *PERSEVERANCE* THROUGH THE *DECADES,* HOWEVER, HE WAS *INVALUABLE.*"

CAPTAIN AMERIC

AS IN, "SOMETHING TO BE TREASURED AND GUARDED ABOVE *ALL ELSE.*"

HE WAS STOLEN ON *YOUR WATCH,* SHORES. HAVE YOU PUT IN MOTION A PLAN TO MAKE THIS *RIGHT?*

I...I HAVE, DUKE MANNOR. WITH ALL ALACRITY. I SHOULD GO AND SUPERVISE--

IF IT'S *HANDLED,* IT'S *HANDLED.*

WHY DON'T YOU GO EXPLAIN YOUR PLAN TO *KING BABBINGTON?*

IS THERE A PROBLEM?

N-NO, SIR. BUT...EVERYONE SAYS TH-THAT NO ONE...*S-SURVIVES* AN *AUDIENCE* WITH--

NONSENSE. DOES THAT SOUND LIKE *AMERICA* TO *YOU?* GO ON IN.

FETCH A MOP.

SPEAK.

RESISTANCE TERRITORY HAS BEEN SATURATED WITH AMERIDRONES, MY LORD.

WITH SO MANY DEPLOYED AND ALERT, I'M TOLD WE EXPECT VISUAL CONTACT AT ANY MOMENT...

...AT WHICH POINT THE DRONES WILL ANESTHETIZE THE TARGET UNTIL RAPIDTROOPS CAN MOVE IN TO *CAPTURE*. RETRIEVAL IS *ALL SET.*

THEN WE NO LONGER NEED *YOU.*

NO! I BEG OF--

DOUBLE THE RAPIDTROOPS.

I WANT ROGERS NEUTRALIZED AND RETURNED BY DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT.

TO THEE, MY LORD.

TO THEE.

NUH-UH. YOUR BROTHER'S *YANKIN'* YOUR CHAIN.

FANBOY.

NO! HE *SAID!* SAID HE 'N' HIS FRIENDS FOUND THE *REAL CAP'N 'MERICA* AND BROUGHT HIM *HERE!* I WANNA *MEET* HIM!

DEET

VEE DOO VEE DOO VEE DOO

FASH

AAAAH!

IMAGE MATCH. ICON IDENTIFIED. TARGET LOCKED.

ON YOUR KNEES! COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY!

SEDATION UNDERWAY WHILE THREAT IS ASSESSED!

WARNING: PROCESS IS NOT UNPAINFUL!

KSHAK

SP-TANG!

"INCOGNITO" DOESN'T REALLY **WORK** FOR ME RIGHT NOW, LIANG! YOU APPROVE OF ME GOING IN?

AWAY FROM MY GUYS? TO HELP *KIDS*? HELL, YES!

GOOD.

SKKKOW

BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED.

BRAKKA BRAKKA

STAY DOWN, SON.

BOMB POP! INCOMING!

SKRNCH

DON'T THINK I WON'T.

YOU WON'T.

tink

THANKS.

NO CHARGE. YOU SEEM TO BE BACK IN FIGHTING FORM. *THAT'S* GOOD.

WHOA. YOU SAVED ME. YOU.

C'N...C'N I GET A PICTURE...?

DO YOU PROMISE TO ALWAYS HELP OTHERS IN DANGER?

YES, SIR.

THEN, YES. HURRY.

AND COVER UP THAT SHIRT!

OKAY...

YOU WIN. I'M CONVINCED. IT IS YOU.

YOU REALLY WERE UNDER ICE AGAIN. THAT SAID--

"DOESN'T IT DESTROY YOU TO FIND OUT YOUR LIFE'S WORK LEFT NO IMPACT?" IS THAT YOUR QUESTION? BECAUSE I'M TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.

RIGHT NOW, I HAVE A JOB TO DO. WHO'S WITH ME?

ALL OF US. WE CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS, NOT ANYMORE.

WE'RE BEHIND YOU 100%, BOMB POP. WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?

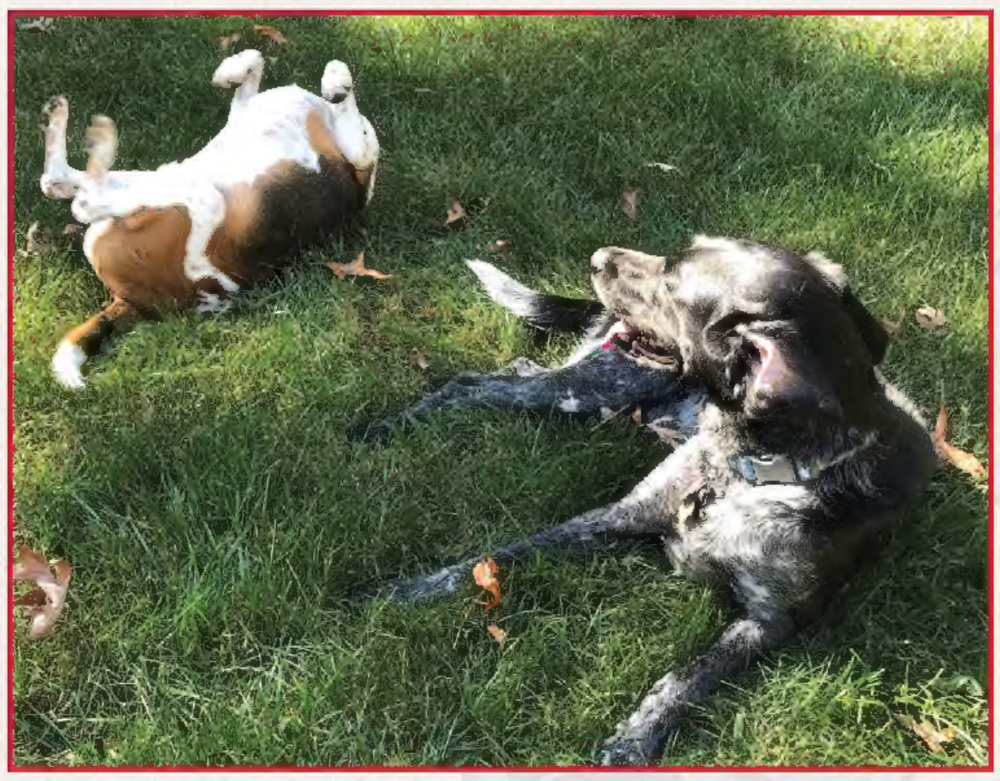
I'LL TELL YOU.

NEXT: STORM THE CASTLE

CAP'S CORNER

WHAT DOES CAPTAIN AMERICA MEAN TO YOU?

What Cap means to me. Wow, I struggled with writing this. I'm chalking that difficulty up to one of my many deficiencies as a human being. I'm often an "out of sight, out of mind" kind of person. So if I'm busy coloring a comic, I'm not thinking about much else. Sometimes that leaves me feeling like a pretty thoughtless person. Which isn't great. So, when it came time to write something for this and I couldn't come up with anything right away, I wondered if I really was too thoughtless and maybe bad at feelings or something [half joking, but then I guess I'm half serious, too. Yikes!]. I'm sure if I took more time to think, I would've come up with something, but then more comics needed to be colored, the holidays rolled around and life just generally distracted me from this task, so I never gave it the serious thought it deserved.



Then a small personal tragedy struck on Christmas Eve. Our two dogs ran away while we were visiting family two hours away, up in the mountains. We extended our trip to search for them but eventually had to go home empty-handed. Just so you don't worry too much, they were found and returned to us eight very cold days later--a little worse for wear, but on the mend now that they're home. But we searched and canvased the area like crazy. In all, we put out over 2,000 flyers and responded to dozens of leads with the help of friends and family.

Anyway, during the week that they were gone, it was easy for my mind to drift toward worst-case scenarios and believe I'd never see the dogs again. However, thanks to so many people's kind words of concern and encouragement, I was able to keep my spirits up and my hope alive.

This all connects to Captain America how exactly, Matt?

Well, like this: What Captain America means to me is that you fight for the things that matter to you, and that you never give up on that fight no matter how hopeless a situation seems. That sounds corny and obvious, sure. And if you try to match Cap's actions to yours, you might not see how him fighting aliens or monsters or Nazis relates to your everyday struggles. However--and it didn't occur to me during the week the dogs were missing, but looking back at it now I realized this--Captain America would've searched for something he loved as long and as hard as we did, never giving up hope because the cause mattered and was worth the effort.

That's what Cap means to me.

-Matthew Wilson

NEXT:

CAPTAIN AMERICA #699

CLOBBERIN' TIME IN 2025

What does Cap mean to you? Send us emails at **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and mark them "**Okay to Print,**" or tweet us using the hashtags **#CapLegacy** and **#OKtoprint** for a chance to see your marvelous missives in future issues!

ZONE